

## **Ted Shapiro, Bio 138, Fresh video assignment.**

- “Americans fear only one thing, inconvenience.
- Will Allen, a former professional basket ball player, corporate executive, and the son of a share cropper, founds Growing Power, an urban farm in Milwaukee. He does amazing work bringing an appreciation of agriculture and healthy food to the inner city.
- Chicken raising, old time versus industrial.
- The industrial chicken farmer doesn’t even know what is in the chicken feed.
- Thousands of chickens are packed into a giant chicken coop.
- Industrial techniques are applied to everything, but they don’t work for everything.
- Joel Salatin raises happy healthy chickens in cow pastures.
- Monocultures are not sustainable. They require antibiotics, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- Monocropping promotes pests. It is not good for the soil, farmers, or consumers
- Livestock removed from mixed farming family farms and put on factory farms.
- Animal waste from factory farms is too toxic to be used as fertilizer.
- Crop farms lack fertilizer.
- People want more and more cheap stuff.
- It is time to shift to a different paradigm.
- Joel Salatin does sustainable farming.
- Joel claims that dead cows, chickens and manure are being fed to live cows.
- Joel’s parents bought a cheap, eroded farm and the family restored it.

- Russ Kramer, grew up on a family farm, learned industrial agriculture in college.
- Russ introduced industrial agriculture on his family's farm. He fed his hogs antibiotics.
- Russ was bitten by a hog and the bite got infected, and Russ almost died.
- Russ realized what he was doing wasn't right and he got rid of his hogs and started over.
- Medium sized organic is more productive than industrial agriculture.
- Today, grain is being fed to cattle which are grass eating animals.
- Joel Salatin says, "what we are farming here is not animals but grass."
- If we take care of the grass, the grass will take care of the animals.
- Joel says, "We haven't bought an ounce of fertilizer in 50 years."
- 70% of U.S grain is fed to livestock.
- The nutritional value of food has decreased by 40% since the 1950's.
- Cheap food is an illusion, the costs are paid somewhere, if not at the cash register.
- Organic food costs more and it is worth more.
- Today just three companies largely control agriculture in the U.S.
- Chicken companies control chicken farmers.
- Large scale centralized agriculture is vulnerable and dangerous.
- Good Nature Family Farms, an alliance of 75 family farms empowers farmers.
- Ball's supermarket chain buys from local farmers.
- Walmart is taking out local supermarkets.
- Buying local benefits the local economy.
- Large scale agriculture displaces family farmers and exploits workers.
- Prisoners are used to catch chickens on factory farms because no one else will do it.
- Ozark Mtn Pork cooperative is farmer owned and pays workers twice the going rate.
- We are voting with our dollars.
- "Food is at the foundation, but it is really about life." ~ Will Allen.

Wow, what an amazing video! It really gave me a lot to think about. I grew up in the country and have grown most temperate crops and am familiar with most livestock, but I haven't been involved in food production for a long time and I haven't given it much thought lately either; but maybe now that will change. Maybe I should get back into growing food. Will Allen is an amazing person, and I have a lot of respect for Joel Salatin. The big ag companies are not just greedy - they are evil, and the government is aiding and abetting them. Wall Street bankers have no business in farming and should be kicked out as soon as possible. Time to vote the crooks out—using our dollars!